

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1, 5-7, 10, 13 and 14, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus which can be connected to a sheet processing apparatus having a plurality of sheet storage trays of which positions are changeable units, and has a plurality of operation modes including at least two modes from among a copy mode, an image communication mode, and a printer mode, said apparatus, comprising:

determination means for determining whether a no-operation state by an operator continues for a predetermined time;

auto-clear operation means for automatically setting the image forming apparatus to a predetermined operation mode from among the plurality of operation modes on the basis of a determination result of said determination means; and

control means for, in response to said auto-clear operation means setting the image forming apparatus to the predetermined operation mode, controlling the sheet processing apparatus so as to ~~enable~~ change the position of a sheet storage ~~unit~~ tray, which is assigned to the predetermined operation mode, to a sheet discharge position of the image forming apparatus, so that the sheet storage tray can store ~~to store~~ a sheet even if not receiving a job data for the predetermined operation mode.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a user interface including a display device commonly used in the respective modes, wherein in response to said auto-clear operation means setting the image forming apparatus to the predetermined operation mode, display control is performed to display a window corresponding to the predetermined operation mode.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising setting means for selecting a mode to be set to by said auto-clear operation means.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising setting means for performing setting of assigning any one of the plurality of operation modes to each of the plurality of sheet storage ~~units~~ trays.

6. (Currently Amended) A control method for an image forming apparatus which can be connected to a sheet processing apparatus having a plurality of sheet storage trays of which positions are changeable ~~units~~, and has a plurality of operation modes including at least two modes from among a copy mode, an image communication mode, and a printer mode, said method comprising:

a step of determining whether a no-operation state by an operator continues for a predetermined time;

a step of automatically setting the image forming apparatus to a predetermined operation mode from among the plurality of operation modes on the basis of a determination result in the determination step; and

a step of, in response to the operation mode setting the image forming apparatus to the predetermined operation mode in the operation mode shifting step, controlling the sheet processing apparatus so as to change the position of ~~enable~~ a sheet storage tray unit, which is assigned to the predetermined operation mode, to a sheet discharge position of the image forming apparatus, so that the sheet storage tray can store, ~~to store~~ a sheet even if not receiving a job data for the predetermined operation mode.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing an image forming apparatus which can be connected to a sheet processing apparatus having a plurality of sheet storage ~~units~~ trays of which positions are changeable and has a plurality of operation modes including at least two modes from among a copy mode, an image communication mode, and a printer mode, to execute the following steps, comprising:

a step of determining whether a no-operation state by an operator continues for a predetermined time;

a step of automatically setting the image forming apparatus to a predetermined operation mode from among the plurality of operation modes on the basis of a determination result in the determination step; and

a step of, in response to the operation mode setting the image forming apparatus to the predetermined operation mode in the operation mode shifting step, controlling the sheet processing apparatus so as to change the position of ~~enable~~ a sheet storage tray unit, which is assigned to the predetermined operation mode, to a sheet discharge position of the image forming apparatus, so that the sheet storage tray can store ~~to store~~ a sheet even if not receiving job data for the predetermined operation mode.

8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus which can be connected to a sheet processing apparatus having a plurality of sheet storage trays of which positions are changeable ~~units~~, and has a plurality of operation modes including at least two modes from among a copy mode, an image communication mode, and a printer mode, wherein any one of the plurality of operation modes can be assigned to each of the plurality of sheet storage trays ~~units~~, said apparatus comprising:

display control means for displaying display windows corresponding to the operation modes on a display device independently for the respective operation modes; and

control means for, in response to said display control means switching to display a window corresponding to an operation mode among the plurality of operation modes, controlling the sheet processing apparatus so as to change the position of ~~enable~~ a sheet storage tray unit, which is assigned to the switched operation mode, to a sheet discharge position of the

image forming apparatus, so that the sheet storage tray can store ~~to store~~ a sheet even if not receiving a job data for the switched operation mode.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A control method for an image forming apparatus which can be connected to a sheet processing apparatus having a plurality of sheet storage trays of which positions are changeable ~~units~~, and has a plurality of operation modes including at least two modes from among a copy mode, an image communication mode, and a printer mode, wherein any one of the plurality of operation modes can be assigned to each of the plurality of sheet storage trays ~~units~~, said method comprising:

a step of displaying display windows corresponding to the operation modes on a display device independently for the respective operation modes; and

a step of, in response to switching to display a window corresponding to an operation mode among the plurality of operation modes, controlling the sheet processing apparatus so as to change the position of ~~enable~~ a sheet storage tray ~~unit~~, which is assigned to the switched operation mode, to a sheet discharge position of the image forming apparatus, so that the sheet storage tray can store ~~to store~~ a sheet even if not receiving a job data for the switched operation mode.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing an image forming apparatus which can be connected to a sheet

processing apparatus having a plurality of sheet storage ~~units~~ trays which position are changeable and has a plurality of operation modes including at least two modes from among a copy mode, an image communication mode, and a printer mode, to execute the following steps, wherein any one of the plurality of operation modes can be assigned to each of the plurality of sheet storage trays ~~units~~, said program of said medium comprising:

a step of displaying display windows corresponding to the operation modes on a display device independently for the respective operation modes; and

a step of, in response to switching to display a window corresponding to an operation mode among the plurality of operation modes, controlling the sheet processing apparatus so as to ~~enable~~ change the position of a sheet storage tray unit, which is assigned to the switched operation mode, to a sheet discharge position of the image forming apparatus, so that the sheet storage tray can store ~~to store~~ a sheet even if not receiving a job data for the switched operation mode.